

reading a symbol on the item to obtain symbol data and item identification data;

monitoring reading technique to obtain read technique data;

sending the item identification data and the read technique data to an evaluation system;

obtaining optimum read technique data;

comparing the read technique data to the optimum read technique data to determine an effectiveness of the reading technique;

providing feedback indicating the effectiveness of the reading technique.

16. (Amended) A method of scanning wherein an operator passes an item through a scan volume of a scanner while moving the item across a weigh scale integrated with the scanner, comprising the steps of

scanning a symbol on the item to obtain symbol data;

obtaining a dynamic weight of the item as the item is moved across the weigh scale;

obtaining optimum dynamic weight data for the item from a lookup table containing item weight data corresponding to the symbol data;

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comparing the dynamic weight of the item to the optimum
dynamic weight data to determine an extent of lifting performed
by the operator;

providing data regarding the extent of lifting to at least
one of a training system and a monitoring system.

20. (Amended) A method according to claim 16 further
comprising the steps of:

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producing a weight pulse having a duration equal to a
length of time that the item is present on the weigh scale; and
determining a scan point within a weight pulse at which the
item was scanned.

21. (Amended) A method according to claim 20 further
comprising the step of determining whether rescanning of the
item has occurred based on a position of the scan point within
the weight pulse.

22. (Amended) A method according to claim 20 further
comprising the step of determining a rate at which the item is
moved through the scan volume based on a duration the weight
pulse.

39. (Amended) A method of optical scanning wherein an operator passes an item through a scan volume of a scanner while moving the item across a weigh scale integrated with the scanner,

B4 comprising the steps of
scanning an optical symbol on the item to obtain symbol data;

obtaining a dynamic weight of the item as the item is moved across the weigh scale;

comparing the dynamic weight value to a threshold value to make a decision whether the item was slid across the scanner or lifted across the scanner;

accumulating total quantities of items slid and items lifted for a plurality of items scanned;

providing data regarding relative amounts of lifting and of sliding to at least one of a training system and a monitoring system.

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. The claims have been allowed except for certain objections to Claims 1, 16, 20-22, and 39. In each instance the Examiner notes certain informalities and requires changing the article "the" to the article --a-- or --an--. It is submitted that these changes to the claims are merely clerical/grammatical and in no way change the meaning or scope of the claims.

The suggested amendments as to "the effectiveness" in Claim 1, line 13 has not been made as it appears to have antecedent to line 11. It is noted that there does not appear to be "the extent" in line 2 of Claim 16. The language does appear in line 14, but would appear to be appropriate as referring back to "an extent of lifting" in line 14.

Upon entry of the amendment, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Information Disclosure Statement of January 2002

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") filed January 29, 2002, Paper No. 4 was not found in the application. For the convenience of the Examiner, enclosed is a copy of that IDS,

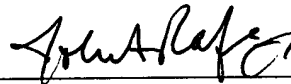
including the form PTO-1449 and copies of the cited patents. It is requested that the IDS be entered and the items cited be considered and the PTO-1449 be completed and a copy returned to the applicant in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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Version of Amendments with Markings to Show Changes

In the Claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of training a data reader operator, wherein ~~the~~an operator passes an item through ~~the~~read-a read volume of a data reader, comprising the steps of:

reading a symbol on the item to obtain symbol data and item identification data;

monitoring reading technique to obtain read technique data;

sending the item identification data and the read technique data to an evaluation system;

obtaining optimum read technique data;

comparing the read technique data to the optimum read technique data to determine an effectiveness of the reading technique;

providing feedback indicating the effectiveness of the reading technique.

16. (Amended) A method of scanning wherein an operator passes an item through ~~the scan~~a scan volume of a scanner while moving the item across a weigh scale integrated with the scanner, comprising the steps of

scanning a symbol on the item to obtain symbol data;

obtaining a dynamic weight of the item as the item is moved across the weigh scale;

obtaining optimum dynamic weight data for the item from a lookup table containing item weight data corresponding to the symbol data;

comparing the dynamic weight of the item to the optimum dynamic weight data to determine an extent of lifting performed by the operator;

providing data regarding the extent of lifting to at least one of a training system and a monitoring system.

20. (Amended) A method according to claim 16 further comprising the steps of:

producing a weight pulse having a duration equal to a length of time that the item is present on the weigh scale; and
determining a scan point within ~~the weight~~ a weight pulse at which the item was scanned.

21. (Amended) A method according to claim 20 further comprising the step of determining whether rescanning of the item has occurred based on ~~the position~~ a position of the scan point within the weight pulse.

22. (Amended) A method according to claim 20 further comprising the step of determining a rate at which the item is moved through the scan volume based on ~~the duration~~ a duration the weight pulse.

39. (Amended) A method of optical scanning wherein an operator passes an item through ~~the scan~~ a scan volume of a scanner while moving the item across a weigh scale integrated with the scanner,

comprising the steps of
scanning an optical symbol on the item to obtain symbol data;

obtaining a dynamic weight of the item as the item is moved across the weigh scale;

comparing the dynamic weight value to a threshold value to make a decision whether the item was slid across the scanner or lifted across the scanner;

accumulating total quantities of items slid and items lifted for a plurality of items scanned;

providing data regarding ~~the~~ relative amounts of lifting and of sliding to at least one of a training system and a monitoring system.